

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SY-05
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-----081258Z 071403 /44

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR, US

SUBJ: OFFICIAL US CONTACTS WITH FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

1. IN A SERVICE FROM ITS PARIS CORRESPONDENT, MILAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF MARCH 8 REPORTS MEETING BETWEEN TWO OFFICIALS (ONE OF MIDDLE RANK, THE OTHER OF A LESSER GRADE) OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT PARIS AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF JEAN KANAPA. MEETING IS DESCRIBED AS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND SINCE MAURICE THOREZ WAS A MINISTER IN DEGAULLE'S IMMEDIATE POST-WAR GOVERNMENT, AND AS BEING ORGANIZED AT AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

2. ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE ENCOUNTER AT PCF HEADQUARTERS TOOK PLACE ABOUT A MONTH AGO, SHORTLY AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE AMERICANS ARE SAID TO HAVE DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "ROUTINE" AND ONE WHICH HAD BEEN FACILITATED BY PREVIOUS CONTACTS AT THE NON-OFFICIAL LEVEL OF THE PCF. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TALK WITH KANAPA, THE AMERICANS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE TOLD HIM THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT ACT IN THE SAME WAY AS THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD DONE

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IN THE CASE OF ITALY AND ACCORDINGLY WOULD NOT PRONOUNCE A VETO OR INTERFERE IN ANY MANNER IN FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICS. FOR HIS PART, KANAPA IS SAID TO HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IN THE CASE OF A VICTORY OF THE LEFT IN 1978 THE PCF WOULD NOT CALL FOR FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

3. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THESE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN US OFFICIALS

AND THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS ARE A NATURAL FOLLOW-ON TO COMMENTS MADE DURING LAST YEAR'S AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. PARTICULARLY CITED IS THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO NSC COUNSELOR BRZEZINSKI TO THE EFFECT THAT BEGIN QUOTE IT IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SPEAKING WITH BREZHNEV AND TO REFUSE ANY CONTACT WITH BERLINGUER. END QUOTE. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT THIS FORMULATION HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE MARCHAIS IN THE PERSON OF KANAPA, WHO IS HIGHER IN RANK, IN TERMS OF HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE PCF POLITBURO, THAN HIS PCI COUNTERPART SEGRE WITH WHOM AMERICANS IN ROME MAINTAIN CONTACT.

4. EQUALLY LENGTHY AND DETAILED ARTICLE ALSO APPEARED IN MARCH 8 EDITION OF LA STAMPA. ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT THAT LA STAMPA MADE WAS THAT AMERICAN SIDE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON FRANCE IN THE EVENT OF A LEFTIST VICTORY IN 1978. LA STAMPA ALSO NOTED THAT A PCF DELEGATION CALLED AT AMERICAN EMBASSY MARCH 7 TO PRESENT ITS VIEWPOINT ON CONCORDE LANDING QUESTION. PCI DAILY L'UNITA OF MARCH 8 PREPLOTS SUBJECT BRIEFLY, DRAWING UPON RADIO LUXEMBOURG AS SOURCE OF STORY. L'UNITA ADDS THAT RADIO LUXEMBOURG REPORT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY PCF SOURCES. BEAUDRY

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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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